

WI AQUAPONICS MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT GROUP

September 24, 2013 Conference Call

WISLINE Call Facilitator – WDNR Chris Lilek

Participants: Chris Lilek-DNR, Jake Fincher – UW Whitewater, Jesse Hull - Imagine Aquaponics , Jesse Blom - Sweet Water Foundation, Brandi Richter-NRCS, Mark Haase – Aquaponics Supporter, and Mark Aquino-DNR

The purpose of this call was to continue our discussion how Federal, State and County regulatory, funding & technical assistance staff can support aquaponic farming in Wisconsin.

Future purpose: We want to be able to offer local aquaponics contacts an easy to use method of getting Federal, State & County regulatory, funding and technical assistance in the future. To further this purpose we have scheduled on-going conference calls to update ourselves on the latest regulatory, funding and technical assistance available to local contacts and then get this information out to the local contacts and aquaponic associations as efficiently as possible. We want the aquaponics industry to succeed and grow in Wisconsin.

The next conference call is scheduled for **January 28, 2014 – 10 - 11:30am**

Conference call in number: (630) 424-2356, Passcode 6550 444#

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

EDUCATION

TALENT

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMICS

RESOURCE

FARMS & SUPPLIERS

INSPIRATION

EDUCATION

Jesse Blom - Milwaukee Director of Sweet Water Foundation shared some information about www.aquapons.info , their new online, badge-based aquaponics training program. Sweet Water AQUAPONS is an online learning platform for practitioners of aquaponics. This open-source website allows learners to accrue a series of digital “badges. These badge acquisitions are aimed at broadening a healthy aquaponic farm industry. He asked our support group to take a look at this on-line training site and provide him with comments at jesseblom@gmail.com .

TALENT

Jake Fincher is a UW-Whitewater student, who is interning with the UWW Institute for Water Business, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. <http://www.uww.edu/cobe/water> Jake has completed the business training courses: Launch Pad and IHUB, which are taught by successful entrepreneurs. Jake is putting together a business plan for aquaponics farming. He is researching the costs and profits in the production of food, biofuels and pharmaceutical aquaponics farming. Jake can be reached at (262) 716-2211 or at jakefincher22@gmail.com .

Mark Haase completed an outside urban aquaponics system this past summer for the recently closed Sweet Water Organics Inc. Mark can be reached at: haasemj@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY

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Jesse Hull – Imagine Aquaponics, Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin to join us on a call in the future. Imagine Aquaponics does commercial scale aquaponics applications, research & development, with a primary focus on creating and establishing highly productive and cost effective urban food production facilities. Most of their clients are outside of the Midwest (California, Texas, India, and Africa), but they have several of their designed systems in Milwaukee schools. Their webpage link is http://imagineaquaponics.com/?page_id=10

Jesse told us a little about the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. Each June, the MREA hosts The Energy Fair. This is the longest running energy education event in the nation and offers programs for all ages and knowledge levels. Jesse has been helping this organization for many years and has seen energy efficiencies for the aquaponics industry through MREA's assistance.

Imagine Aquaponics has received a \$50,000 grant to capture waste heat and return it to the aquaponics systems they design. This new prototype will likely be patented after the project is completed.

ECONOMICS

Loans

Brandi Richter-NRCS let us know that Carol Nagel FSA-USDA has been busy reviewing and approving microloans in the past couple months. Carol is now assigned to four counties in Wisconsin: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Waukesha. Brandi is continuing to monitor the proposals for the national Farm Bill.

RESOURCES

Action Item: DNR will work on furthering aquaponics education of regulatory field staff. Chris Lilek has assisted with two aquaponics start-ups this past summer. DNR staff reviewed the proposals and since the systems were recirculating systems and had existing water & wastewater disposal systems, no additional requirements were needed. The last system Chris assisted with was AquaTerra Farms in Bristol, Wisconsin. <http://aquaterrafish.com/> UW- Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility provided system design support.

AQUAPONIC FARMS & SUPPLIERS

Demonstration

Nelson and Pade, Inc., Montello, WI 53949

Pilot Projects

Grow Local LLC, Neenah, WI

Family Farms

Natural Green Farms, Racine WI

Production Farms

Central Greens LLC Milwaukee WI

Growing Power, Milwaukee, WI

Aqua Terra Farms, Bristol, WI

Future Farm, Baldwin, WI

KP Simply Fresh, North Freedom, WI

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Nelson and Pade, Inc., Montello, WI
North Star Homestead Farms, Hayward, WI

SUPPLIERS

Nelson and Pade, Inc, Montello, WI, www.aquaponics.com offers complete aquaponic system packages, growing supplies, training and technical support to prospective and existing aquaponic growers.

<http://aquaponics.com/page/aquaponic-systems>

http://www.indianafishfarming.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=34%253Aworkshops&id=54%253Asuppliers&Itemid=66

<https://www.was.org/shopping/shopdisplaycategories.asp>

INSPIRATIONS

Mother, daughters passionate about farming, healthy food http://www.agrview.com/news/regional/mother-daughters-passionate-about-farming-healthy-food/article_fe15588e-bda4-11e2-924a-001a4bcf887a.html

“Ann is intensely interested in aquaponics and in charge of their full-circle greenhouse/tilapia fish-rearing system, operated year-round”. Their farm is named “North Star Homestead Farms”, and is located east of Hayward, Wisconsin.